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The three not before collated are MSS. in the British Museum (B¹ saec. xv, B² saec. xv, B³ saec. xvi). A is a manuscript in the Cambridge University Library (No. 1879, I i, v. 44), saec. xiii, the Eliensis of Wilkinson, Zell and Michelet, O³ of Susemihl. C is a MS. in the Library of Corpus Christi College, saec. xv, the CCC of Wilkinson, Zell and Michelet, O¹ of Susemihl. D is in the Library of New College, Oxford, saec. xv, the NC of Wilkinson, Zell and Michelet, O² of Susemihl.

TRANSACTIONS OF THE CAMBRIDGE PHILOLOGICAL SOCIETY. Vol. I, from 1872 to 1880. Edited by J. P. POSTGATE, M. A., Honorary Secretary. London: Trübner & Co. 1881.

The Cambridge Philological Society has done well to publish its papers in a collected form. The difficulty of getting at scattered monographs is one of the greatest of philological troubles. Of course there is much in these papers that is merely tentative, much that is mere suggestion, but there are several elaborate and valuable articles, and the newly introduced feature of reviewing the literature of various classical authors during the current year will be peculiarly acceptable to English scholars. Such reviews are to be found in various German periodicals; as notably in the *Philologus*; and Bursian's *Jahresbericht* is especially devoted to this function, but the latter repertory comes out in so extraordinary a fashion—each part containing the *disiecta membra* of various volumes skewered together—that it is necessary to wait a long time before any one volume can be made available. It is much to be desired that this feature of the Transactions should be made prominent and increasingly useful.

In another part of this Journal the reader will find a list of the articles published in the Transactions for 1879-1880. An index to the whole volume is much to be wished, but hardly to be expected in the circumstances.

Professor Postgate has introduced the volume by a vindication of the *raison d'être* of the society, and has emphasized its *maieutic* function, the interchange of help, the opportunity of becoming acquainted with the literature of the various subjects under consideration, and the consequent saving of time otherwise wasted in fruitless and *rem actam agere* researches, the collection of lexicographical material, the discussion of those educational problems that grow out of philological studies, and the initiation of needed reforms. To this excellent presentation of the functions of a Philological Society I would add the testimony of my own experience. The institution of a Philological Association in connection with the Johns Hopkins University has been fruitful of good in nearly all the directions indicated by Professor Postgate. It has brought together workers from different parts of the same field, it has stimulated production, it has promoted mutual good feeling and mutual respect. The interest of our monthly meetings is not abated, and our experience is not of yesterday—for we shall soon reach our fortieth session—and I am confident that by the institution of similar associations in every centre of philological study in America, the development of the department would be accelerated beyond

the dreams of the most sanguine. But the society must be philological; it must deal with truly philological themes, and not lose itself in vague generalities, and it must be an organic part of the university or the college work. In communities where there is already a large philological element this latter feature may not be essential, but it seems to be clear that if a certain responsibility were not felt by each philologist here to his department as well as to the members of the association, there would not be the same activity or the same persistency. The example of the Cambridge Philological Society will serve to encourage and stimulate us to still more earnest efforts, even if we cannot hope to show evidence of studies so rich and so varied.

B. L. G.

Elis Saga ok Rosamundu. Mit Einleitung, deutscher Uebersetzung und Anmerkungen zum ersten Mal herausgegeben von EUGEN KÖLBING. Heilbronn (Henninger), 1881. 8°. Pp. XLI+217.

Tales of the Crusades and knight-errantry form a part of mediæval romantic literature, the cultivation of which culminated at the beginning of the 12th century. Original to France, they soon spread to every part of Europe; into Norway, under the title of Riddara Sögur, they were introduced with the middle of the 13th century, and spread thence to Iceland, where during the 14th and 15th centuries most of the Scandinavian versions were written. The Riddara Sögur are more or less free prose translations and paraphrases from Latin, French, Anglo-Norman and German originals either in prose or verse; they are, however, principally from French and Anglo-Norman poems whose originals are in many cases lost. The Elis Saga, as the author states in his preface, is one of the most important, as its Old French versified original is still extant; it is the only one, with the exception of the Strengleikar (Lais)—Munch & Unger, Christiania, 1850—whose Old Norwegian version exists and the name of its translator is known. Prof. Kölbings book contains an introduction with MS. and text exegesis, the text with variants followed by a translation and notes, and indexes of the names of persons, places and peoples. The Elis Saga consists of two separate parts—the Elis Saga proper (pp. 1-116), which goes back to an Old French original, and a Continuation (pp. 116-139). The author of the first part is, as the MS. itself states, "the Abbot Robert," who made the translation for the Norwegian king Hakon Hakonson (1217-63). The second part is apparently the later original work of an unknown Iclander, a view shared by Klockhoff and Edzardi, though Raynaud thinks the same Abbot Robert to have been its author. The saga is contained in nine different parchment MSS., in but one of them, however, entire. The oldest and best of them, called by the author *A*, is the Cod. Delagard. 4-7 fol. of the University Library at Upsala, written in Norway in the middle of the 13th century; *B* is Cod. Holm. 6, 4°; *C* Cod. A. M. 533, 4°; *D* is Cod. Holm. 7 fol. from the second half of the 15th century, and is the only MS. which has the saga entire; *E F H I J* are fragments. The relationship of the MS. is as follows: *A* is assumed—certainly on rather insufficient grounds—to be but a transcript from an older MS.; *C B* form a group by themselves, and are from a common Icelandic original; *D* is a paraphrase by an Iclander of